The Ohlone are the indigenous group whose ancestral land contains San Mateo County Parks. They have lived on this land since roughly 10,000 BC! "Ohlone" is actually a term used to include a wide variety of Native American language groups. This map shows the language groups of the Ohlone people. Circle the group that is closest to where you live.

As a way to honor their ancestral land, we say aloud a land acknowledgement. For example, “I am from Sunnyvale, the ancestral land of the Ohlone." This recognizes whose ancestral land you are on.

Give a land acknowledgement.
As you see, acorns were a food staple for the Ohlone. The Ohlone would grind acorns between two rocks to break open the shell. They would then grind them into a fine powder and soak the meal to get rid of tannins, nasty stuff that can make you sick if you eat a bunch of it! After, they would boil it into a soupy stew, like oatmeal.

Think about your current home, or habitat! You use some things that everyone needs to survive, no matter the place or time period. **Connect the pictures of things you use today with the corresponding tools and objects the Ohlone used in the past.**

Find an acorn, a nut, or some hard piece of food from your home (with your family’s permission!) and try grinding! Place your food of choice on a flat rock or a sidewalk. Find another, bigger and more round rock, and grind your food into powder!
You’ve gotten caught in a time machine and are now whizzing back through time! Miraculously, your high-tech phone still works in the past! To help you adjust to your new reality, we put information about the past on the app OuterSpatial. Look up the park you’re in and read about where and when you are!

Pick a job you think you’d do well. What is the job and around what year are you working it?

Think about your job. What kind of clothes would you wear for it? Is there anything you would need to adapt to your new lifestyle? Draw your work clothes:

Why would you be good at it?

Just as you’re figuring out how to live life during this time, all of a sudden you’re back in the present! Phew! **What did you like most about being in the past? What did you like the least?**